



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

6W
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,714	09/09/2003	Kyung pill Ko	1293.1853	8736
21171	7590	02/05/2007	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			RICHER, AARON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2628	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/05/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/657,714	KO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aaron M. Richer	2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed January 18, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 9-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 4-7 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segal (U.S. Patent 6,791,567) in view of Kimura (U.S. Patent 7,084,880).
5. As to claims 1 and 12, Segal discloses an apparatus for adjusting brightness of a screen on which input RGB color signals are displayed, the apparatus, comprising:
a RGB color signal generator to detect a total maximum value of the RGB color signals, to compare the total maximum value with a predetermined critical value (col. 1, lines 62-67; col. 2, lines 60-67), and to generate RGB color signals so as to increase or decrease a brightness level of an image displayed on the screen by one of a plurality of predetermined ratios based on the comparison result (col. 2, lines 17-24; col. 3, lines

Art Unit: 2628

43-60; col. 4, lines 54-60; brightness is reduced by a determined scaling factor and a ratio is a part of this calculation);

and a system controller to provide the predetermined critical value to the RGB color signal generator (col. 2, lines 60-67; the invention acts as a controller, providing the critical value to a ratio setting unit).

Segal further discloses:

a RGB color signal generator to detect a maximum value of each of a plurality of color signals comprising the RGB color signals, to compare the maximum values, and to generate other RGB color signals, if one of the maximum values is greater than the others (col. 4, lines 41-60; colors are adjusted based on the greatest maximum value if one exists);

and a system controller to provide the RGB color signal generator with the data on conditions necessary for detecting a color signal having the higher maximum value than the other color signals (col. 2, lines 60-67; the invention acts as a controller, supplying all max values and thus, conditions for detecting the highest max value).

Segal does not disclose having a color temperature increased to a predetermined value, nor does Segal disclose a system controller providing a predetermined value. Kimura however, discloses, a color temperature correction apparatus that works when a luminance is high and a color saturation is below a predetermined threshold (col. 2, lines 59-65). In other words, the invention changes the color temperature for white areas and close-to-white areas. Based on this determination of luminance and saturation, the invention of Kimura then increases one

component in comparison to others, raising the color temperature to some desired level (col. 1, lines 43-58). The motivation for this is to make a white color more pleasing to a user (col. 1, lines 43-58). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Segal to modify a color temperature to a predetermined color temperature based on a threshold in order to make a white color more pleasing to a user as taught by Kimura.

6. As to claim 4, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the predetermined ratios are set using data provided from the system controller based on reference data input by a user (col. 3, lines 49-60; col. 4, lines 16-21).

7. As to claim 5, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the RGB color signal generator windows a predetermined area of the screen, and then detects the total maximum value of the RGB color signals in the predetermined area (col. 2, lines 56-67; a surface as in fig. 1-4 reads on a predetermined area of the screen).

8. As to claim 6, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the predetermined area is determined depending on a highest resolution supported by the screen on which the image is displayed (col. 2, lines 56-67; a surface is selected and resolution is inherently a factor in determining the coordinates of that surface; if a surface were being displayed on a high resolution monitor vs. a low resolution monitor, these coordinates would be different).

9. As to claim 7, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the brightness of the screen is automatically adjusted (col. 3, lines 49-60; the function can be modified by a user, otherwise it is automatic).

10. As to claim 9, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the system controller provides a reference value used in comparing the maximum values and detecting the color signal having the higher maximum value than the others with the data on the conditions (col. 4, lines 35-60; the "sample pixel value" listed in table 1 reads on a reference value for detecting a color with a higher max value), and the reference value is set based on a difference value such that a user perceives a maximum value of the color signal displayed on the screen to be higher than those of the other color signals (col. 4, lines 35-65; inherently, a user will perceive the greatest max value color, 637.5 or 255, as higher than other lower colors).

11. As to claim 10, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the RGB color signal generator detects the maximum values of the RGB color signals in each frame (p. 9, section 0178; p. 12, section 0214).

12. As to claim 11, Kimura discloses an apparatus wherein the color temperature of the screen is automatically adjusted (col. 2, lines 59-65; the temperature is modified based on thresholds and not user interaction).

13. As to claim 13, Kimura discloses an apparatus wherein color temperature is increased to a predetermined value (col. 1, lines 43-58).

14. As to claim 14, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein brightness is automatically adjusted (col. 3, lines 49-60; the function can be modified by a user, otherwise it is automatic), and Kimura discloses an apparatus wherein color temperature is automatically adjusted (col. 2, lines 59-65; the temperature is modified based on

thresholds and not user interaction). Motivation for this combination can be found in the rejection to claims 1 and 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segal in view of Kimura and further in view of Park (U.S. Publication 2002/0163527).

17. As to claim 2, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein the predetermined critical value comprises a first predetermined critical value determined in a case where the brightness level of pixels in an area of the screen from which the total maximum value is detected corresponds to substantially full white (col. 1, lines 14-22; the maximum value which is acted upon corresponds to a color substantially white).

Neither Segal nor Kimura discloses an apparatus in which a second predetermined critical value determined in a case where the brightness level of pixels in the area corresponds to substantially full black. Park, however, discloses a value that corresponds to a set black point (p. 3, section 0058). The motivation for this is to promote color accuracy at both sides of the color spectrum efficiently, without use of color cards, for instance (p. 1, section 0007). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Segal in view of Kimura to set a critical value corresponding to full black in order to efficiently reproduce both white and black as taught by Park.

18. As to claim 3, Segal discloses an apparatus wherein if the total maximum value is greater than the first predetermined critical value, the RGB color signal generator decreases the brightness level of the image on the screen by one of the predetermined ratios by generating less bright RGB color signals (col. 2, lines 17-24; col. 3, lines 43-60; col. 4, lines 54-60; brightness is reduced by a determined scaling factor and a ratio is a part of this calculation).

Neither Segal nor Kimura discloses that if the total maximum value is less than the second predetermined critical value, the RGB color signal generator increases the brightness level of the image on the screen by another of the predetermined ratios by generating brighter RGB color signals. Park, however, discloses setting a color to a relative brightness of 0, which increases brightness by a certain ratio, considering that originally the brightness would have actually been blacker than the black point of the monitor. The motivation for combining the black point critical value apparatus of Park with the white point apparatus of Segal in view of Kimura can be found in the rejection to claim 2.

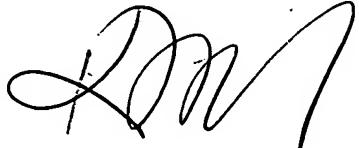
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Richer whose telephone number is (571) 272-7790. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AMR
1/31/07



KEE M. TUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER